



## **UK priority species pages – Version 2**

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**SPECIES PAGES FOR 2007 UK BAP PRIORITY SPECIES**

(see endnotes for an explanation of the various components of this compilation).

**Delphinus delphis Linnaeus, 1758**

**Common Dolphin**

**1 General information**

Level 1	Marine species
Level 2	sea mammal
On 1997 UK BAP list	Grouped plan species

**2 UK BAP criteria<sup>i</sup>**

1. International threat	2. International responsibility (2a) + moderate decline in UK (2b)	3. Marked decline in the UK	4. Other important factor(s)
False	False	False	True

**3 Evidence for Criteria<sup>ii</sup>**

Criterion 1	
Criterion 2a	
Criterion 2b	
Criterion 3	
Criterion 4	Long-lived, vulnerable and low recovery: Nationally scarce: Provides habitat/food source for an established proposed BAP

**4 Distribution by Country**

England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	International Waters
Y	Y	Y	Y	

**5 Distribution Information**

Distribution data source	Cetacean Atlas
Distribution data notes	These judgements are all based on the Atlas and also expert judgement. For example it is assumed that species that occur offshore (in areas deeper than 200m) will occur in the offshore waters of England even if they have not been recorded.
number of sites (where less than or equal to 10)	
Units used for number	

of sites	
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## 6 Actions identified by experts<sup>iii</sup>

Action number	Action text	Reporting category
	Undertake research on cetaceans using UK waters to identify areas of particular importance for breeding, feeding or migration	Research
1	Undertake any necessary research and fully implement mitigation measures to reduce bycatch as far as possible	Research
2	Develop and implement a UK Cetacean Surveillance Strategy	Monitoring/survey
3	Maintain the UK stranding scheme, which provides an indication of the extent of anthropogenic mortality, and implement appropriate remedial action when necessary	Monitoring/survey
4	Undertake research into population structure	Research

## 8 Additional information from specialists<sup>iv</sup>

Attribute	Value
NBN current scientific name	Delphinus delphis
NBN common name	Common Dolphin
classification level 1	Marine species
classification level 2	sea mammal

## 9 Additional information for species listed under the Habitats Directive<sup>v</sup>

Attribute	Value
Conclusions - overall assessment	(XX) - Unknown
Conclusions - range	(FV) - Favourable
Conclusions - population	(XX) - Unknown
Conclusions - habitat	(FV) - Favourable
Conclusions - future prospects	(XX) - Unknown
Published sources and/or websites	<p>BEARZI, G., POLITI, E., AGAZZI, S. &amp; AZZELLINO, A. 2006. Prey depletion caused by overfishing and the decline of marine megafauna in eastern Ionian Sea coastal waters (central Mediterranean). <i>Biological Conservation</i>, 127, 373-382.</p> <p>EVANS, P.G.H., ANDERWALD, P. &amp; BAINES, M.E. 2003. UK Cetacean Status Review. Report to English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales. 159</p> <p>HAMMOND, P.S., BENKE, H., BERGGREN, P., BORCHERS, D.L., BUCKLAND, S.T., COLLET, A., HEIDE-JØRGENSEN, M.P., HEIMLICH-BORAN, S., HIBY, A.R., LEOPOLD, M.F. &amp; ØIEN, N. 1995. Distribution and abundance of the harbour porpoise and other small cetaceans in the North Sea and adjacent waters. Final report under European Commission, Project LIFE 92-2/UK/027. Sea Mammal Research Unit, Gatty Marine Laboratory, University of St Andrews, Fife, UK.</p> <p>HAMMOND, P.S. &amp; MACLEOD, K. 2006. SCANS II – Report on Progress. Document Paper prepared for ASCOBANS 5th Meeting of the Parties, Netherlands, September, 2006. MOP5/Doc. 26.</p> <p>INGRAM, S.N., WALSH, L., JOHNSON, D. &amp; ROGAN, E., 2007. Habitat portioning and the influence of benthic topography and oceanography on the distribution of fin and minke whales in the bay of Fundy, Canada. <i>Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom</i>, 87, 149-156.</p>

	<p>JEPSON, P.D. (Ed) 2006. Trends in cetacean strandings around the UK coastline and cetacean and marine turtle post-mortem investigations, 2000 to 2004 inclusive. Defra Contract CRO 238.</p> <p>JEPSON, P.D., DEAVILLE, R., PATTERSON, I.A.P., POCKNELL, A.M., ROSS, H.M., BAKER, J.R., HOWIE, F.E., REID, R.J., COLLOFF, A. &amp; CUNNINGHAM, A.A. 2005. Acute and chronic gas bubble lesions in cetaceans stranded in the United Kingdom. <i>Veterinary Pathology</i>, 42, 291-305</p> <p>MACLEOD, C.D., BANNON, S.M., PIERCE, G.J., SCHWEDER, C., LEARMONTH, J.A., HERMAN, J.S. &amp; REID, R.J. 2005. Climate change and the cetacean community of north-west Scotland. <i>Biological Conservation</i>, 124, 477-483.</p> <p>MACLEOD, C.D., WEIR, C.R., PIERPOINT, C. &amp; HARLAND, E.J., 2007. The habitat preferences of marine mammals west of Scotland. <i>Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom</i>, 87, 157-164.</p> <p>REID, J.B., EVANS, P.G.H. &amp; NORTHRIDGE, S.P. 2003. Atlas of cetacean distribution in north-west European waters. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.</p> <p>STONE, C.J., 2003. The effects of seismic activity on marine mammals in UK waters, 1998-2000. Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Report No. 323</p> <p>WEIR, C.R., POLLACK, C., CRONIN, C. &amp; TAYLOR, S. 2001. Cetaceans of the Atlantic Frontier, north and west of Scotland. <i>Continental Shelf Science</i>, 21, 1047-1071.</p> <p>WEIR, C.R., STOCKIN, K.A. &amp; PIERCE, G.J., 2007. Spatial and temporal trends in distribution of harbour porpoises, white-beaked dolphins and minke whales off Aberdeenshire (UK), north-western North</p>
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	Sea. Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, 87, 327-338.
surface area of range in km2	Unknown
Date of range determination	05/2007
Quality of data concerning range	Moderate
Range trend	Stable (=)
Range trend magnitude (%)	Not applicable
Range trend period	1994-2005
Range trend reasons 0 - Unknown	False
Range trend reasons 1 - Improved knowledge/more accurate data	False
Range trend reasons 2 - Climate change	False
Range trend reasons 3 - Direct human influence	False
Range trend reasons 4 - Indirect anthropo or zoogenic influence	False
Range trend reasons 5 - Natural processes	False
Range trend reasons 6 - Other (specify)	False
Reasons for reported trend in range specify	Not applicable
Population_min	Unknown
Population_max	Unknown
Population units other specified	Not applicable
Population date	05/2007
Population method	1 - Based on expert opinion
Population quality	Moderate
Population trend	Unknown (X)
Population magnitude (%)	Not applicable
Population period	1994-2006
Pop trend reasons 0 - Unknown	False
Pop trend reasons 1 - Improved knowledge/more accurate data	False
Pop trend reasons 2 - Climate change	False
Pop trend reasons 3 - Direct human influence	False
Pop trend reasons 4 - Indirect anthropo or zoogenic influence	False
Pop trend reasons 5 - Natural processes	False
Pop trend reasons 6 - Other (specify)	False
Reasons for reported trend in Pop specify	Not applicable
Surface area of the habitat in km2	Unknown
Date of area estimation	05/2007

Quality of data on habitat area	Poor
Habitat trend	Unknown (X)
Habitat trend period	1994-2006
Hab trend reasons 0 Unknown	False
Hab trend reasons 1 Improved knowledge	False
Hab trend reasons 2 Climate change	False
Hab trend reasons 3 Direct human influence	False
Hab trend reasons 4 Indirect anthropo or zoogenic influence	False
Hab trend reasons 5 Natural processes	False
Hab trend reasons 6 Other (specify)	False
Reasons for reported trend in Hab specify	Not applicable
Justification of % thresholds for trends	Not applicable
Future prospects	Unknown
Favourable reference range	Unknown
Habitat name	<p>Cetacean habitats (e.g. feeding and breeding areas) vary temporally and spatially and are influenced by natural and anthropogenic factors (e.g. Ingram et al., 2007; MacLeod et al., 2007; Weir et al., 2007). It is often difficult to determine what features characterise cetacean habitats and in quantifying their extent.</p> <p>This species is widely recorded over continental shelf waters and offshore. There appears to be a winter aggregation in the western channel, where densities are much higher than in summer. Common dolphin distribution has been linked to prominent topography such as sea mounts and escarpments (Evans et al. 2003) and also to sea surface temperature and local primary productivity (MacLeod et al., 2007).</p> <p>There are possible limiting factors to use of some areas such as bycatch, prey depletion and pollution.</p>
Other relevent information	Range is a difficult parameter to define for marine mammals since they are highly

	<p>mobile and their distribution can vary considerably in time and space across Member States. While understanding the distribution of marine mammal species might be helpful in assessing their conservation status and while range can be subjected to qualitative assessment, the data do not enable a quantitative estimate of surface area at present.</p> <p>A new project, CODA (Cetacean Offshore Distribution and Abundance) 2007 - in which the common dolphin is a target species - aims to estimate abundance, and investigate habitat preferences in European waters outside the continental shelf. See audit trail documents for further information.</p>
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## 10 Species designations<sup>vi</sup>

Abbreviation	Reporting Category	Designation	Designation description	Year	Source	Comment
HabReg:Sch2	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	Schedule 2	Schedule 2: European protected species of animals.	1994	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	
Bern:A2	Bern Convention	Appendix 2	Special protection (`appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures`) for the animal taxa listed, including: all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing; the deliberate damage to or destruction of breeding or resting sites; the deliberate disturbance of wild fauna, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing and hibernation, insofar as disturbance would be significant in relation to the objectives of this Convention; the deliberate destruction or taking of eggs from the wild or keeping these eggs even if empty; the possession of and internal trade in these animals, alive or dead, including stuffed animals and any readily recognisable part or derivative thereof, where this would contribute to the effectiveness of the provisions of this article.	1979	Bern Convention	
CMS_Bonn:A2	Convention on Migratory Species	Bonn Appendix 2	Migratory species having an unfavourable conservation status for which Range States are encouraged to conclude international agreements for their benefit.	1988	Bonn Convention	Geographic constraint=North and Baltic Sea, western Mediterranean, and B

CMS_ASCOBANS	Convention on Migratory Species	ASCOBANS	Conservation of small cetacean species to achieve favourable conservation status, conscious that the management of threats to their existence, such as bycatch, habitat deterioration and other anthropogenic disturbance, requires concerted and coordinated responses.	2008	Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS)	
HabDir:A4	Habitats Directive	Annex 4	Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) in need of strict protection. They are protected from killing, disturbance or the destruction of them or their habitat. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession.	1992	Habitats Directive	
England NERC S.41	Biodiversity Lists - England	England NERC S.41	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.	2008	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)	Geographic constraint=Listing is for England only
NI_Priority	Biodiversity	Priority	The Northern Ireland Priority List of threatened	2010	Northern	

	Lists - Northern Ireland	Species (Northern Ireland)	species requiring conservation action in Northern Ireland. Criteria have been developed to ensure that Priority Species have been chosen using a scientific basis (See <a href="http://www.habitas.org.uk/priority/criteria.html">http://www.habitas.org.uk/priority/criteria.html</a> ). The list is designed to assist those involved in the conservation of biodiversity by guiding decisions on where to target action and invest resources.		Ireland Priority Species List, March 2010	
Scottish Biodiversity List	Biodiversity Lists - Scotland	Scottish Biodiversity List	<p>The Scottish Biodiversity List is a list of flora, fauna and habitats considered by the Scottish Ministers to be of principal importance for biodiversity conservation. The development of the list has been a collaborative effort involving a great many stakeholders overseen by scientists from the Scottish Biodiversity Forum. Completion of the list is the first time such a stocktake has been done in Scotland.</p> <p>The Scottish Biodiversity List is a tool for public bodies and others doing their Biodiversity Duty. The publication of the Scottish Biodiversity List satisfies the requirements of Section 2(4) of The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.</p>	2005	Scottish Biodiversity List of species of principal importance for biodiversity conservation	Geographic constraint=Listing is for Scotland only
Wales NERC S.42	Biodiversity Lists - Wales	Wales NERC S.42	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under Section 42 (Wales) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.	2009	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal	Geographic constraint=Listing is for Wales only

					Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)	
BAP:2007	Biodiversity Action Plan UK list of priority species	Priority Species	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).	2007	UK list of Priority Habitats and Species	status on former BAP list: Grouped plan species
ECCITES:A	EC Cites	Annex A	All CITES Appendix I species. Some CITES Appendix II and III species, for which the EU has adopted stricter domestic measures. Some non-CITES species.	1997	CITES UK Species only	
WACA:Sch5Sect9.4A*	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.4A*	Ceteaca/basking shark that are not allowed to be intentionally or recklessly disturbed.	2000	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	Geographic constraint=Designation does not apply in Scotland since 15/02/2007.
WACA:Sch5_sect9.5a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.5a	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part.	1981	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	Geographic constraint=Designation does not apply in Scotland since 15/02/2007.
WACA:Sch5_sect9.5b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.5b	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being published or advertised as being for sale.	1981	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules	Geographic constraint=Designation does not apply in

					1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	Scotland since 15/02/2007.
ConsRegsNI:Sch2	The Conservation (Nature Habitats, etc.) Regulations (NI) 1995	Schedule 2	Schedule 2: European protected species of animals.	1995	The Conservation (Nature Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, amended 2004	

## UK BAP 2008 reporting<sup>vii</sup>

(nb this only applies to species on the original 1997 UK BAP priority species list)

### ENDNOTES

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<sup>i</sup> An explanation of these criteria is included at Annex 3 of [UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Report on the Species and Habitat Review](#). BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2007. This review was organised in two stages. Stage 1 looked at the scientific evidence for selecting the UK List of Priority Species and Habitats while stage 2 considered the conservation action needed for these species and habitats and provided signposts to the means of implementing action.

<sup>ii</sup> The information on evidence and the species distribution is as presented on the UK BAP website. Users can download a spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#) from the home page of the UK BAP website.

<sup>iii</sup> Actions were assigned to each and every priority species by expert groups convened at Stage 2 of the Review process. These were subsequently categorised into “signpost categories”. This information is as shown on the UK BAP website See the link for [categorisation \(signposting\) of UK priority species](#).

<sup>iv</sup> This information has been derived from Stage 1 of the priority species review, and is presented in the “marine”, “terrestrial invertebrates” and “other terrestrial species” sheets within the spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#). The information presented here varies according to the taxonomic group. Please note that some of these data have been written for other Expert Group members and may not be of great value to a wider audience.

<sup>v</sup> This is only applicable to Species listed under the Annexes 2 4 and 5 of the Habitats Directive. The information presented here was collated by the UK Government in fulfilment of the requirement under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. For further information see the [2<sup>nd</sup> UK Report](#) on the implementation of the Habitats Directive.

<sup>vi</sup> Information on conservation designations has been extracted from JNCC’s collation of information on [species designations](#). The designations shown in version 2 of these pages are as at December 2010.

<sup>vii</sup> As part of the 2008 UK BAP reporting round lead partners of national plans were asked to answer a number of specific questions. The data will be analysed and used for the UK and country level reports. All of the responses provided through BARS as part of the 2008 reporting exercise are available to [download](#). Note that in the December 2010 version of these pages (version 2) includes corrections to previously truncated text fields.